

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03716 241339Z

41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PQ, ELAB, PFOR

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN JOURNALIST UNION'S NEW LEADERSHIP IS ANTI-U.S.

1. A NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD RUNNING ON THE "UNITY AND WORK" TICKET LED BY LEFTIST NATIONALIST EUCLIDES FUENTES ARROYO AS SECRETARY GENERAL TOOK CONTROL OF THE PANAMANIAN JOURNALIST UNION IN ELECTIONS HELD JUNE 15. FUENTES ARROYO, ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER MATUTINO, DEFEATED JORGE CARRASCO, RADIO AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCER, EDITOR OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE THE PANAMA AMERICA, AND INTERPRETER FOR GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT. THE WINNERS HAD CRITICIZED THE OLD GUARD LEADERSHIP AS UNDYNAMIC AND DEVOTED TO RUNNING THE ORGANIZATION MORE AS A SOCIAL CLUB THAN AS A UNION. ALTHOUGH MORE NATIONALISTIC THAN THE PREVIOUS RULING GROUP, THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD OF 20 MEMBERS INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS OF DIVERSE IDEOLOGICAL TENDENCIES.

2. WE ANTICIPATE THAT FUENTES ARROYO WILL CAUSE THE U.S. PROBLEMS DURING HIS TENURE. HE WAS REFUSED A TRANSIT VISA JANUARY 16 UNDER ARTICLE 212 (A) 28 OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 03716 241339Z

THE INA WHILE PLANNING AN FRG-SPONSORED TRIP TO WEST

GERMANY. THE REFUSAL RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND STRONG CRITICISM IN THE PRESS. IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ELECTION HE CANCELLED A USIS-SPONSORED RADIO-TV SEMINAR WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED TO BE HELD AT THE CASA DE PERIODISTAS BY HIS PREDECESSOR. UNION MEMBERS LARGELY BOYCOTTED THE SEMINAR WHICH WAS FINALLY HELD IN THE USIS LIBRARY JUNE 19-20.

3. ON JUNE 20 THE JOURNALIST UNION ISSUED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE TO ORDER ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS TO REPEAT EACH HALF-HOUR OR HOUR UPON IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES A SLOGAN SUPPORTIVE OF PANAMA'S DEMAND FOR FULL JURISDICTION OVER ALL ITS TERRITORY. THE UNION SUGGESTED "PANAMA DEMANDS COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY" OR "PANAMA IS SOVEREIGN IN THE CANAL ZONE." THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR THE POST OFFICE TO STAMP ALL MAIL, DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN-BOUND, WITH THE STATEMENT "PANAMA IS SOVEREIGN IN THE CANAL ZONE." JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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